

REMARKS

No claims have been amended. No claims have been canceled. No new claims have been added. Accordingly, no listing of claims is required. Claims 1-2, 5-14, 19-22, and 28-29 are pending.

Claims 6, 9, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ciccone (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,504). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, "a base station including first control circuitry ... and at least two cordless telephone handsets ... each including second control circuitry ... said first and second control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and handset to place an active call at at least one of said base station and handset on hold during said intercom communication."

Claim 9 recites, *inter alia*, "a base station including first control circuitry ... and at least two cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station, each including second control circuitry ... said first and second control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and handset to place an active call at at least one of said base station and handset on hold during said intercom communication."

Claim 12 recites, *inter alia*, "a base station including first control circuitry ... and separate intercom buttons for each of a plurality of cordless telephone handsets said plurality of cordless telephone handsets comprising at least a first and second cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station including second and third control circuitry ... said first, second and third control circuitry operating in

response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and said first and second handsets to place an active call on hold during said intercom communication.”

Referring to Fig. 1, Ciccone discloses a cordless telephone system comprising a base unit 10 and a plurality of handsets 20, 30, 40. In Fig. 2, the base unit 10 is illustrated to include a control unit 110, and each handset (e.g., handset 20) is illustrated to have a control unit 210. Ciccone is directed to a system and method for permitting multiple elements (e.g. base unit 10, handsets 20, 30, 40) of the cordless telephone system to operate in close proximity without interference due to collisions resulting from simultaneous operation of the multiple elements. Column 1, lines 38-64. To that end, Figs. 3-10 illustrate the packet protocol used for communication between the base and handset units, and Figs. 12-26 are flowcharts illustrating how to perform communication using the packet protocol illustrated by Figs. 3-10.

The Office Action alleges that Ciccone disclose a cordless telephone system in which “second control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and handset to place an active call at at least one of said base station and handset on hold during said intercom communication” (as recited by claim 6), “said first and second control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and handset to place an active call at at least one of said base station and handset on hold during said intercom communication” (as recited by claim 9), and “said first, second and third control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and said first and second handsets to place an active call on hold during said intercom communication” (as recited by claim 12), and points to column 6, lines 24-64.

It is respectfully asserted that the Office Action is in error. Column 6, lines 24-64 in fact discloses that the radio frequency output power can be varied in a cordless phone system in response to a received signal strength indicator (RSSI) and that the cordless phone system supports an intercom system. See, e.g., Fig. 11 (illustrating intercom mode between handsets). The intercom mode is described briefly at columns 9-10, however, it is respectfully asserted that Ciccone contains no disclose regarding placing an active call on hold in connection with an intercom communication. Accordingly, Ciccone cannot be fairly stated to disclose or suggest the above quoted portions of independent claims 6, 9, and 12.

Claims 1-2 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukada (U.S. Patent No. 4,650,931) in view of Ciccone. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "A method ... comprising ... answering, by a first party the incoming call at one of said base unit and said plurality of handsets; initiating an intercom connection, by an intercom initiating party, to alert an intercom receiving party; automatically placing said incoming call in a hold status if either said intercom initiating party or said intercom receiving party is also said answering party; and accepting said incoming call, by said intercom receiving party, by terminating the hold status."

Tsukada discloses a cordless telephone system which includes a single base unit and a single handset. Both the base unit and the hand set include an intercom key. The intercom key is used to establish an intercom connection between the base unit and handset. The cordless telephone system supports transferring a telephone call between the base unit and handset by depressing the intercom key on the transferring unit, which places the telephone call on hold and calls the other unit in the intercom mode.

As seen in Figs. 5 and 6, the telephone call can be transferred from one unit to another through additional use of the intercom key, or a hybrid mode permitting communication between the telephone call, base unit, and handset can also be established. If the telephone call is transferred between the base unit and handset, the telephone call is automatically removed from the hold status established by the intercom mode. As corrected noted by the Office Action, Tsukada fails to disclose the above quoted portion of claim 1 because Tsukada's fails to disclose a cordless telephone system having a plurality of handsets.

The Office Action states that Ciccone discloses a cordless telephone system which supports multiple handsets, and that the combination of Tsukada and Ciccone would disclose or suggest the claimed invention. It is respectfully asserted that the Office Action is in error. Implicit in the Office Action's conclusion is that Ciccone discloses that an active call can be placed on hold during an intercom operation. See Office Action at pages 3-4. As noted above with respect to claims 6, 9, and 12, Ciccone in fact contains no such disclosure. All Ciccone discloses is a packet protocol useful for preventing collisions during close proximity operations of a cordless telephone system having multiple handsets, and that an intercom mode is possible in such a system. No specific details regarding the operation of any intercom mode is disclosed in Ciccone. The packet structure (Figs. 3-10) and flow charts (Figs. 12-26) do not contain any disclosure regarding placing a call on hold. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that Tsukada and Ciccone fails to disclose or suggest the above quoted portion of claim 1.

Claims 5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-14, and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ciccone in view of Tsukada. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, "A method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone with a base unit and at least a first handset and a second handset, said base unit and said at least first and second handsets being at separate locations, the method comprising the steps of: a first party answering the incoming call at a first handset of the cordless telephone; the first party alerting a second party, by initiating an intercom connection between said first handset and said second handset, while the incoming call is automatically placed in a hold status; and the second party accepting the incoming call at the handset by terminating the hold status."

As noted above, Ciccone discloses a cordless telephone system including multiple handsets. The Office Action states that Ciccone discloses that a first party, which has answered an incoming call at a first handset, can initiate an intercom to a second party. It is respectfully asserted that this conclusion is in error. All Ciccone discloses is that its cordless telephone system is capable of supporting an intercom mode between multiple handsets. There is no disclosure in Ciccone regarding using the intercom mode simultaneously with processing a telephone call. Further, Tsukada fails to disclose or suggest a cordless telephone system having multiple handsets. Accordingly, Ciccone and Tsukada fails to discloses or suggests the above quoted portion of claim 5.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 5, 6, 9, and 12 are believed to be allowable. Depending claims 2, 7-8, 10-11, 13-14, 19-22, 28-29, are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reason as independent claims 1, 5, 6, 9, and 12.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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